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College Comment

Key to Current Issues in Alberta Public Colleges

STUDENT NEEDS AND MOTIVATIONS

An extensive study designed to identify the needs and motivations of students in sixteen Alberta post-secondary non-university institutions will be available in June 1972. The study forms an important dimension of the **Alberta Colleges Commissions' Master Planning Project.**

A detailed analysis of the inter-relations between student needs and motivations and the characteristics of the student body constitutes the major emphasis of the report.

Findings of the study which involved questionnaire responses and interviews in a sample of 864 students indicate:

- the majority of students currently enrolled attend the institution primarily as a means of preparing themselves for a specific occupation or to upgrade their present job status,
- the majority of students are drawn from the working class stratum of Alberta society,
- there is considerable satisfaction with the programs, courses and physical facilities being provided,
- there is general satisfaction with the content of programs and with the methods of teaching employed,
- there appear to be no factors of a discriminatory nature operating within the system other than those inherent in the programs offered, and
- counselling appears to be relatively ineffectual in influencing or guiding students since it does not appear to be oriented towards the real world of jobs and opportunities.

Data for the study were collected by the **Human Resources Research Council** and analysed by **Dr. John McLeish** of the **University of Alberta.**

The report entitled **"Master Planning Monograph No. 7, Student Needs and Motivations"** will be distributed to participating institutions.

TRANSFERRING STUDENTS

A policy on student transferability adopted by the **Alberta Colleges Commission** (see February 1972 College Comment) has now been adopted by representatives of Alberta's **Agricultural and Vocational Colleges** and **Institutes of Technology.** The policy has also been approved by the Colleges Commission Advisory Committee which has as its membership the presidents of the public colleges. At a meeting on April 25, 1972, representatives of the above institutions translated the policies into a procedural statement. **Dr. R. G. Fast, Director of Instructional Services** for the Colleges Commission chaired the meeting. He has now prepared a

(Continued next page)

COMMISSION CONCLUDES SERIES OF SPECIAL MEETINGS

Members of the **Alberta Colleges Commission** have now concluded a series of college special meetings. During the series, five of the six colleges were visited, beginning with **Grant MacEwan Community College,** Edmonton in December and concluding in April with a visit to **Mount Royal College,** Calgary. Other meetings were held at Grande Prairie, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat.

There were seven formal briefs presented during the meetings, which gave persons from within and outside of the college community the opportunity to raise issues concerning the operation of the public colleges. The minutes were also recorded to provide a record of the points raised during the informal presentation of briefs and throughout the open forum section of each meeting. During the June Commission meeting, members will be giving further consideration to the points raised in each of the presentations.

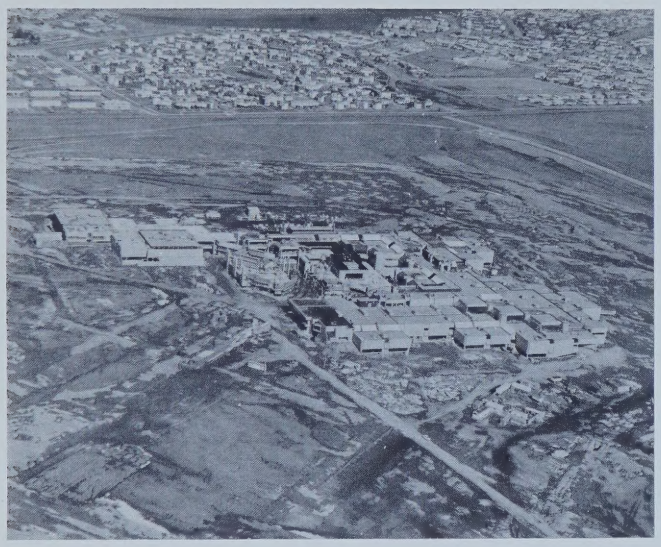
Commission members are prepared to receive suggestions of whether a similar series of meetings be held in 1972-73, and if so what changes might be made to improve the concept of such meetings. Up to this point the comments have generally been favourable, the prime complaint being a lack of time for the preparation of briefs. Generally, however, it appears that the meetings were successful as a first endeavour of this type. It should be noted that what may have been lacking by way of formal presentations was compensated for during what remained as the open forum part of each of the meetings. Also, for the first time, Commission members were given the opportunity to visit the colleges as a group to meet staff and students.

Feature College:

MOUNT ROYAL COLLEGE

Mount Royal College, oldest established college of the six in the system, opened in 1910 after it was founded a year earlier under the sponsorship of the Board of Colleges of the Methodist Church. The student population at the time was 154. When the United Church of Canada was established in 1925, Mount Royal became one of the secondary schools of the church, and six years later it became affiliated with the **University of Alberta.** In 1966, the college gained affiliation with the **University of Calgary,** and also became a public institution. Two years later the incumbent **President, Dr. Walter B. Pentz,** was appointed.

Now, after more than 60 years in the downtown Calgary campus, the students and staff will move to a 15 million dollar facility at **Lincoln Park campus** on the city's western edge. Classes begin at the five thousand student campus in October.



The educational model chosen for the new facility is the "individual instruction small group discussion, and large-group lecture" model. The unique building space required to handle the large percentage of individual learning area plus the high level of flexibility required to accommodate the changing program, dictated unusual space and comfort standards. The individual learning area has been dubbed "learning library." Decentralized along its interior side will be administrative and counselling facilities, while 200 faculty offices will be distributed homogeneously throughout.

At the present time, **Mount Royal College** offers education programs in four areas: **(1) Associate Diploma Programs, (2) Certificate Programs, (3) Programs in affiliation with the University of Calgary, and (4) Upgrading Programs for Adults.** The number of students accommodated in these programs totaled over 2,300 full-time in 1971-72. To assure the continued success in the area of program planning, the College has established through its placement office a system to provide a continuous follow-up on the graduates of all career programs.

Mount Royal College has taken a further expansionary step with the opening of its **Old Sun Campus** on the **Blackfoot Indian Reserve** at Gleichen, Alberta.

A CHANGE OF ATTITUDE

In his inaugural address, the new President of **Medicine Hat College, Dr. E. Stanley Chace,** said that society must work to get rid of the elite doctrine of education. He told an audience of about 600 that in the past it may not have been socially or economically feasible to educate everybody. "Now a change of attitude is necessary, so the housewife, Manpower student, hobbiest as well as the honours scholar will have an opportunity to have the education they want and need." In an earlier part of the inauguration ceremony, **Dr. Henry Kolesar, Chairman** of the **Alberta Colleges Commission,** spoke to the new president on his responsibility to the school, the community and the province as a whole, as he undertakes the leadership of **Medicine Hat College.** Dr. Kolesar told the gathering that the president of a college is far more than a figurehead. "It is his responsibility to implement the decisions of the education ministry, the Colleges Commission and the Board of Governors."

The medal of the presidency was presented to Dr. Chace by the **Honourable James L. Foster, Minister of Advanced Education.** The ceremony was held at **Medicine Hat College** on April 16, 1972.

STUDENT RESIDENCES OPENED

The new student residences at **Red Deer College** will be officially opened in mid-June. 196 residents can be accommodated in the facility, which includes two-bedroom self-contained units for married students as well as four-apartment units with adjoining shared kitchen facilities. Accommodation will also be available for persons attending summertime conferences and workshops in the community. A **Residence Handbook** can be obtained from the **Residence Manager.**

Transferring Students—continued

handbook the purpose of which is to inform persons associated with the participating institutions of the policies and procedures which have been approved and also to gain their reaction.

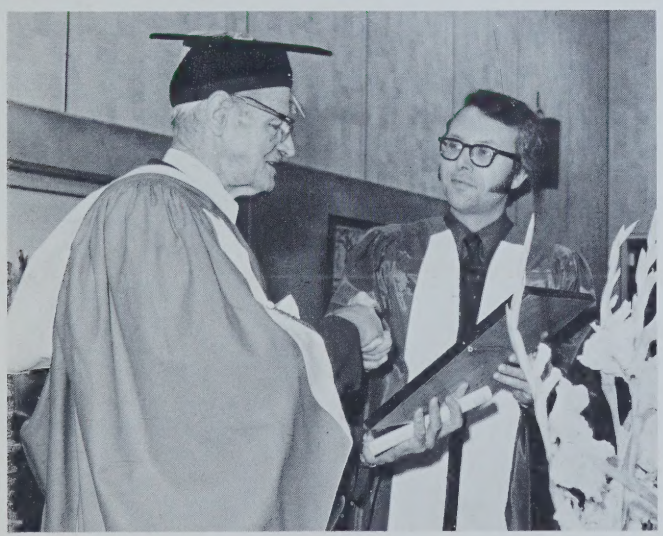
At its May meeting, the Colleges Commission passed a motion instructing Dr. Fast to submit a proposal to the **Universities Coordinating Council** for the transferability policy to be adopted by Alberta's Universities for a trial period during which time all existing affiliation agreements be suspended. Adoption of such a proposal would eliminate existing requirements for the transfer of post-secondary non-university students in Alberta to the province's three universities for a two-year period, during which the effectiveness of the transferability agreement would be evaluated.

TOWARD MORE SUCCESSFUL RESOURCE ALLOCATION

In search of a better way to allocate resources, the **Alberta Colleges Commission** is piloting a resource allocation model as a tool for college management. **Lethbridge Community College** is the first Canadian institution at which the pilot is being put to the test. It is entitled **"The Resource Requirement Prediction Model (RRPM)"** and was initially developed as one of the projects undertaken by the **Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education** headquarted at Boulder Colorado. The RRP Model provides a simulated model of the institution upon which alternative decisions may be tested. For example, the model will enable the institution to test the specific effects of enrolment on program changes and additions. According to **Mr. R. A. Bosetti,** Commission **Director of Research and Planning,** the simulation model in effect will permit administrators and faculty to assess the implications of specific resource allocation decisions prior to those decision being made and implemented.

Project coordinators and consultants are **Dr. Ed Segar** and **Dr. Don Richards** of the **Department of Educational Administration, University of Alberta.** Computer services at **NAIT** are being used, with **Jack Harvey** of that institute handling the data processing operations. The information base required for the operation of the model is being collected and assembled by personnel at **Lethbridge College.** Eventually the experience gained from the pilot project may be used to develop a simulation model for purposes of planning and resource allocation in all post-secondary institutions in the province.

COLLEGE OFFICIALLY OPENED



Lieutenant - Governor Dr. J. W. Grant MacEwan declared **Grant MacEwan Community College** officially open in a brief ceremony staged in February at the **Cromdale Campus.** In the course of the ceremony the Lieutenant-Governor was awarded an honorary diploma in Applied Arts by **Board of Governors Chairman Barry Moore.** Featured platform guests for the occasion included the Minister of Advanced Education, James L. Foster, College President John L. Haar, Colleges Commission Chairman Dr. Henry Kolesar, and former Education Minister Robert Clark.

A CHOICE OF FUTURES

The **Chairman** of the **Alberta Colleges Commission, Dr. Henry Kolesar,** has asked that persons within the college system in Alberta respond to the report of the **Commission on Educational Planning.** The report is due for release in mid-June. "We in the college community have a responsibility to study the report and to voice our opinions on it." Dr. Kolesar indicated that comments may be made through the Colleges Commission or directly to government. "The report will receive the widest possible distribution in order to facilitate expressions of opinion."

The report of the Commission, headed by Dr. W. H. Worth, highlights the issues and opportunities that lie ahead for Alberta's educational system. Major changes in legislation governing education in the province may come about as a result.

Copies may be ordered now by sending a cheque or money order made payable to the **Provincial Treasurer** to: **A CHOICE OF FUTURES, Queen's Printer, 11510 Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5G 2Y5.**

JOB PLACEMENT AT RED DEER COLLEGE

A successful Job Placement Program is helping students at **Red Deer College** find full-time and part-time employment. The program, begun in the fall of 1971 under the Student Services Office, provides students with information on part-time, summer and career employment opportunities and establishes good relations with businesses and government. It also makes the necessary arrangements for active campus recruitment by businesses, industry and government. In one such program, ten recruiters visited the college and interviewed 117 students.

Information on career programs has been gathered from 155 companies and businesses in the Red Deer area and throughout Canada. A manual and library of career employment materials is also available. Eventually the Job Placement Program will place more emphasis on researching the employment markets and assist **Red Deer College** in developing programs which meet the needs of those markets.

NEW MEMBERS OF BOARDS OF GOVERNORS

Nominations closed in early April for eight vacancies on the Boards of Governors of the six public colleges. The appointments, to be announced by James L. Foster, Minister of Advanced Education, will be effective July 1, 1972. To be filled are two vacancies at Grant MacEwan Community College, two at Lethbridge Community College and one at each of the remaining four colleges.

COLLEGE IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

Students enrolled in the mountain leadership program at **Lethbridge Community College** will once again head into the foothill and mountain region of the province this summer. This will be the third year the unique program will be offered by the college's **Liberal Education Department** headed by **Doug Alston.**

Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Education 225 and 248 will provide practical training and experience in wildland recreation and outdoor education by involving the students in a 14-day outdoor experience in the foothill and mountain areas. Outdoor Education 248 will have emphasis placed on the environment of the central Rockies. Topics covered include geological history of the Rocky Mountains, climate and its effects on plants and animals, life history and identification of native animals and birds. Wildland Recreation and Outdoor Education 225 will expose students to opportunities, activities and skills associated with wildland recreation and camping. Students will be involved in such things as hiking and backpacking, mountain climbing, fishing and camp cookery and firecraft. Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Education 225 and 248 runs from July 3 to 16, Outdoor Education 248 from July 18 to 31, and Wildland Recreation and Outdoor Education 225 from August 2 to 15. It has been pointed out that one of the significant features of the program is the quality of leadership. Among those who will be offering instruction will be **Buck Cunningham** who has served as a naturalist with the **Canadian Parks Department** in Banff National Park.

For the first two years the program was offered at Lethbridge Community College, students were enrolled from the other nine provinces in addition to several states in the United States.

RESEARCH GRANT AWARDED

The **Chairman** of **Liberal Education** at **Grande Prairie Regional College** has been awarded a $1,000.00 research grant by the Boreal Institute of Northern Studies at the University of Alberta. **Dr. Frank Kozar** will carry out research on **"An Investigation of Gymnosporangium—Its Ultrastructure and Meiotic Behavior."** A final report on the research project is expected to be made available by May 1, 1974.

RESEARCH STUDIES COMPLETED

Research Study No. 16: T. C. Day, **Administration-Faculty Conflict Over the Distribution of Control in Policy Formulation in Alberta Colleges,** 1971.

Research Study No. 17: J. A. Bacon, **Communications and Role Satisfaction in Post-Secondary Institutions,** 1971.

In Study No. 16, Mr. Day has developed an instrument for measuring perceptions of actual and preferred involvement on twenty-two decision issues, and has established criteria for identifying the presence, nature, and magnitude of conflict between faculty and administration.

In Study No. 17, Mr. Bacon adapts a Communication Record Form and related questionnaire to develop a procedure which permits measurement of the relationships between satisfaction of a member of an organization and communication in which the member engages.

The studies, supported in part by the Alberta Colleges Commission, are made available to interested people throughout the province, particularly college personnel. The studies are also filed in the library of the Commission.

COLLEGE COMMENT is a quarterly publication of the Alberta Colleges Commission for administrators, faculty and students in Alberta's public colleges. Subscriptions may be obtained free by contacting Mr. Glen E. Yost, Information Officer, Alberta Colleges Commission, 600, 11160 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 0L1. Telephone 482-5976

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